



HFD members pose with flagpole ornament: (left to right) chief Don Good, Training Battalion chief W.M. (Mac) Knight, firefighter Ron Hoerner, Fire System Maintenance supervisor Bill Blankingship, fire marshal Rex Jordan and deputy chief Bill Hayes.

Fire Department donates flagpole to Veterans Memorial

Last May, Hanford firefighter Ron Hoerner became aware of the Veterans Memorial project through articles in the *Tri-City Herald*. The project is largely supported through community donations.

"I thought, what better way to support this worthwhile project than to donate a flagpole," said Hoerner, who once worked for Tom McMillin, the Veterans Memorial's driving force. Hoerner remembered that there was a spare 41-foot flagpole stored at Hanford's Central Fire Station, between the 200 East and West Areas. He approached Hanford Fire Chief Don Good with the idea of donating the spare flagpole to the project.

Chief Good, a veteran himself, agreed and worked through the process of declaring the flagpole as "excess" and arranging its donation to the Veterans Memorial Committee. But something was missing. The flagpole didn't have a top. That didn't slow the process at all. A number of Fire Department members reached into their own pockets and donated money to buy an eagle ornament for the top of the pole.

"It gives me great pleasure to be a part of an organization whose members give so freely of themselves and support worthy community projects," said Good. "Soon this eagle will sit proudly in the Regional Veterans Memorial." ■



Firefighter Ron Hoerner (left) and Fire System Maintenance supervisor Bill Blankingship hold the eagle that will top the flagpole at the Veterans Memorial in Columbia Park. The Hanford Fire Department donated the flagpole and HFD members bought the eagle to top the flagpole.